GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2698
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
POLLUTION FREE TRANSPORT SYSTEM
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes a pollution free transport system between the stretch of Jhelum from Kharnabal in South Kashmir to Khadinyar in the North;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the navigation potential of Jhelum and other rivers in the State.

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPIING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c): As per information provided by the Government of J&K the proposed pollution free transport system between Kharnabal and Khadinyar on river Jhelum mainly comprises of navigational lock and gated structure for augmenting draft in the river during October to February (Winter months) when required draft (1.22 metres) for navigation is not available. Construction (on the navigation lock) started in 1984. Pakistan objected to the project alleging that storage is prohibited in river Jhelum. This resulted in suspension of work since 1987 when Government of India went for Government level dialogue instead of Commissioner level talks. Issue continues to be unresolved despite several rounds of Secretary level talks held since 1998 as part of composite dialogue. Periodic discussions are being held by Ministry of Water Resources (Indus Wing) with the State Government officials in this regard. So far as other rivers in the State, rivers flowing in Jammu province have a steep gradiare not suitable for navigation. In Kashmir valley, for practical purposes, the development of water transport is confined to certain stretches of river Jhelum and various lakes.